

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center

Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

January 31, 2011



LS01 (AMM)

Reply to Attn of:

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Employees with Senior Institutional and Project Management Responsibilities to Attend the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Reception and Dinner at the Davidson Center

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain NASA employees with senior leadership and project management responsibilities have been invited to attend a U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) dinner and reception, sponsored by the USSRC, scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011, at the USSRC Davidson Center for Space Exploration.

The USSRC is an agency of the State of Alabama, and is the visitor information center for Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). The USSRC is committed to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Space Program and the work being done at MSFC.

The purpose of the event is to welcome the USSRC's new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Deborah Barnhart. In addition, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Education will be presented to Dr. Georg von Tiesenhausen by former astronaut Neil Armstrong.

This event will be a widely attended gathering of NASA officials, military leaders, local elected officials, aerospace industry representatives, as well as business and community leaders. The event is valued at \$58 per person. Total expected attendance is around 600 people. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

The MSFC Center Director, Deputy Director, and Associate Director (Technical), and other senior NASA employees;<sup>1</sup> have been invited and plan to attend this event. NASA

---

<sup>1</sup> Marshall invitees identified by position are the Center Director; Deputy Director; Associate Director, Technical; Manager, Shuttle Propulsion Office; Acting Director, Engineering Directorate; Acting Chief Operating Officer, Michoud Assembly Facility; Director, Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications; Manager, Constellation Program; Director, Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate; Senior Executive For Technology and Integration; Director, Office of Chief Information Officer; Deputy Manager, Science & Mission Systems Office.

personnel who have been invited to attend this event, presently, or may, in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to USSRC. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior leadership responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future agreements with the USSRC or could significantly affect the interests of USSRC.

I have determined that free attendance of these individuals at the event is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these NASA officials at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these individuals attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

The USSRC is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Bierbower", written in a cursive style.

William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel